

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Office of Publication: 208 South Elm Street, Denton, Texas; Editorial and Executive Office: 145 North Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

An independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness, and Formalism

VOLUME X, No. 14

DENTON, TEXAS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1943

\$1.00 PER YEAR

## So-Called Contradictions In The Bible Explained

By the EDITOR

A Chicago reader, greatly amused that *The Sword of the Lord* stands for the verbal inspiration of the Bible, writes asking the editor to explain some "contradictions" which he professed to be greatly disturbed about. The so-called "contradictions" were evidently copied from some of the literature of infidels. I have answered his questions, and I believe it will do all young Christians good to see how simple it is to find the apparent discrepancies in the Bible really harmoniously reconciled by a little further prayerful study. The Bible is the Word of God. There are no real contradictions, no mistakes, in the blessed Word of God. In the original manuscripts even the very words were inspired of God. Jesus said about the Scriptures that "every word... proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4), and again Jesus said, "the scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

Here follows my letter to my unbelieving friend, giving his so-called "contradictions," with the contradictions all explained away. "My dear Mr. ————:

Your letter, asking some questions about the Bible, came a few days ago. I take it that you are young, that you have not made an honest study of the Bible as yet, but have picked up some of the old, old, hoary chestnuts of unbelievers of a generation ago. I am sorry to see anybody with a rambling and frivolous approach to important matters, and with time to waste, as one would judge you have, but I am glad to answer your questions, and I assure you that a little more study on your own part would have solved all your difficulties, if you came to the Bible with an open heart and if you really were interested in finding out the truth about God's Word.

"First, you seem to have some trouble with the word *verbal*. Verbal inspiration is simply word inspiration, that is, inspiration of the

very words of the original manuscripts of the Bible, not inspiration of the various translations, of course.

"1. You asked, 'What kind of light did God create the first day, three days before he created the source of all earthly lights, the sun?' You are misinformed. The sun is not the source of all earthly lights. The sun is not the source of the light from the stars. The sun is not the source of the light from phosphorescence from lightning bugs, from volcanoes, from fire. Actually, scientifically speaking, the sun is not an original source of light at all. Scientists have discovered that the sun is made up of elements like those in the earth and other planets. The only difference is that the sun is heated and so at present gives off light. Actually, the heat that is in the sun had to come originally from something else, or more literally, from someone else that is, from God. 'God is light, and in him is no darkness,' says the Scriptures (I John 1:5). The light of the pillar of fire which led the children of Israel in the wilderness, the light of the shekinah glory over the mercy seat in the tabernacle, the light that shone from the transfigured Saviour on the mount of transfiguration, the light of the angels who were at the tomb after Christ was resurrected, and the light that was in and surrounded the glorified body of Jesus when John saw Him as described in the first chapter of Revelation—that light was not from the sun, but from God 'the Father of lights.' To say that the sun is the source of all light is the same as saying that there is no God, which is silly. The sun is not a creator, but is created. God said, 'Let there be light' and later when He made the sun, He gave the sun the heat that now for these many centuries has been giving off light at God's command.

(Continued on page two)



Dr. Howard C. Fulton

## East Huntington Union Revival

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

J. Stratton Shufelt and I are in the first week of a blessed union revival campaign on the east side of Huntington, West Virginia. Nineteen churches are cooperating, with evening services in East Huntington High School's new auditorium, and with the 10:00 A.M. service in Highlawn Presbyterian Church and broadcast over radio WCML. This is written Friday noon, and the results thus far have been very fine, with a prospect of hundreds of conversions and great blessings for the churches and Christians participating in the campaign. The campaign was well organized and prepared with a dozen sub-committees under the direction of the general committee, led by Dr. W. C. Reeves, pastor of High Lawn Baptist Church.

Wednesday afternoon Mr. Shufelt and I were guests of East Huntington High School, in a special assembly called so we could sing and preach for the student body and faculty. It was a moving time, and many students indicated their earnest desire to be saved, and their intention to take Christ as Saviour. The 1,200 students in senior high school are a wonderful group, and the principal, Mr. Hodge, who so kindly offered to call the special assembly for us is not only a progressive and well trained educator, but a greatly loved Christian gentleman. Of course my message was not denominational, but a plain gospel message on "What Shall I Do Then With Jesus", and I gave each student a copy of the famous little booklet "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" Then last night a special section of 240 seats reserved for high school students was overflowed and perhaps a hundred others found seats in the balcony.

Last night the auditorium with 1,324 opera chairs (including 172 seats in the choir) was filled, and ushers had to place some chairs in the aisles to accommodate late comers. I preached for a solid hour, and when I gave an invitation 17 came forward to claim Christ as Saviour. All were taken to the Little Theater auditorium just back of the stage, all were personally dealt with, and each one publicly confessed his or her lost and sinful state, and claimed to trust in Christ as Saviour. There were many tears and faces were happy. Most came to claim Christ for the first time, some were backsliders

(Continued on page three)

## WAGES!

By REV. HOWARD C. FULTON, D.D.

Pastor, Belden Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Romans 6:23.

"Well, it is pay-day for me all right." These were the words of Ex-mayor Busse of Chicago in his dying moments, as he spoke to his brother-in-law, Mr. Mang, who sat by his bedside. "Pay-day" was one of Mr. Busse's favorite expressions in life.

So amazed was Mr. Mang at this expression of Mr. Busse in such an hour as that, he was speechless, for he realized how desperate the ex-mayor's condition, and how true the words that he spoke.

Mr. Busse was silent for a long time, but when his sister entered the room, he recognized her with a faint smile, and asked her for a glass of water. His sister hurried to get the water, and he drank it eagerly, and said: "That's good."

Relinquishing the glass, he sank back, gasped, and was dead. Pay-day!

Every man has his pay-day. It makes no difference who he is—employee or employer—he has a pay-day coming.

\* God has appointed it unto men once to die, and after this the judgment. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7, 8.

If we serve sin and the devil, then we must receive the wages of sin which is death. But if we

receive the gift of God, which is eternal life, and serve God faithfully, then we will receive the reward of the righteous.

The devil is a very poor paymaster. He takes all that is worth having in this life, damns us in hell eternally, paying in full the wages of sin.

But God is a very good paymaster. He gives us life eternal freely through Jesus Christ our Lord, and then rewards us for faithful service. God graciously rewards for faithful use of the gifts which He bestows.

"The Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11.

Men the world over and in all walks of life are always concerned about wages and pay-day. You can draw a crowd and stir up an argument almost anywhere on the subject of capital and labor, justice and equality, in the world of labor and finance.

The fight is on; the employee tries to increase his wage by union, persuasion, strikes, and force, and the employer does everything within his power to protect himself.

(Continued on page three)

## "FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON I DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY"

By MISS VIOLA WALDEN  
Office Manager

A soldier boy wrote to us September 19, and with his letter enclosed the decision slip from page 23 of the booklet, *What Must I Do to Be Saved?*, with his name signed. Part of his letter is as follows:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Several weeks ago someone gave me a little booklet about 'How Can I Be Saved.' For some unknown reason I didn't throw it away. And today I ran across it and thought I'd read it. And I thank the Lord that I did. It helped me immensely and for the first time in my life I know I'm saved.

"I'm 23 years old and have been in the army about 13 months. Since reading and understanding about having faith in the Lord, I've decided to join a church, as I've never really belonged to any particular church.

"I'm saved now and have complete faith in the Lord. I sincerely hope and pray you will keep up the good work of saving others. I just thought you would like to know about me..."

(Signed) W. R. Thomas  
Camp Campbell, Kentucky  
22 Reported Saved Through Sword Literature During the Month of September

We have received twenty signed decisions from the booklet, *What Must I Do to Be Saved*, one from the booklet on *Hell*, and one from the sermon in *The Sword of the Lord* by Dr. Rice, *The Curse of Hidden Sins*, a total of twenty-two for September. Seven of these were from Mr. A. C. Smith, sent to him by prisoners in the penitentiaries of Texas. We covet your prayer for the distribution of this literature. Help us get it in the hands of the lost.

The following contributions for the literature were received during September.

Wm. H. Walter, Mo.....	\$23.30
Leslie Jantz, Kansas.....	8.00
J. A. Spangler, Iowa.....	1.00
Harry J. De Army, Pa.....	2.00
Alma Anderson, Ill.....	6.00
A Friend, Wisc.....	2.00

(Continued on page three)

## How to Win Little Children to Christ

By the EDITOR

The editor's six daughters have all been led to put their trust in Jesus Christ and to claim Him as Saviour by the time they were six years old, or before. A Pennsylvania brother asked, "What steps from say two to six years must one take to help a child grow up as yours?"

The editor and wife do not feel that we are especially good examples, but our answer as to how we reared our children to win them early to know and love the Lord Jesus may help others so we give it here.

First, we gave our children to the Lord before they were born, promised God to rear them for Him, asked Him to help us to win them to trust Him as Saviour and live for Him. We had assurance that He heard our prayer.

Second, our children bowed their heads at the table with grown folks for thanks three times a day.

Third, they were present at the family worship once daily when we read the Scripture, and when all the older members of the family led in prayer. Thus they became accustomed to the Word of God and prayer.

Fourth, our children were taught gospel songs from the time they could talk. In fact, those were about the only songs they ever heard.

Fifth, our children were in church services, (not only in Sunday school, but in public evangelistic services), hearing their father preach regularly from the time they were a month or six weeks old. They were carried in a basket. All of them before they were a year old were taught to remain quiet in services. They saw

(Continued on page three)

## Sam Morris Began Broadcast October 4 Over Station WHAS

Sam Morris, the Voice of Temperance, began a new broadcast over the 50,000 watt, clear channel station, WHAS, Louisville, Kentucky, to be heard every day at 6:30 a. m. Central War time, 840 kilocycles. This broadcast will blanket everything from Arkansas to Washington, D. C. and all friends in that area are requested to tune in, and to tell their friends about the broadcast. Mr. Morris also expects to be on several other large radios in key cities before long.



Sam Morris



## So-Called Contradictions in Bible Explained

(Continued from page one)

To make the sun, or any created piece of matter an original source in itself would be as silly as to say that an automobile had no manufacturer.

"2. You do not believe that the statement in Genesis 2:17, to Adam, 'for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.' You say that Adam and Eve did not die. Now, wouldn't you think that any honest student would have looked a little further? If there were a brazen contradiction in the same chapter don't you think that Moses, who was inspired to write it, would have detected it as soon as you would, and would have corrected it? But actually for anyone who gives it a moment's thought, there is no contradiction. Throughout the Bible God speaks of spiritual death. Lost sinners are said to be 'dead in trespasses and sin' (Eph. 2:1), 'dead in sins' (Eph. 2:5), 'dead in your sins' (Col. 2:13). 'Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead' (Rev. 3:1). So Adam and Eve became poor lost sinners the moment they disobeyed God. They became spiritually dead, lost, strangers from God. And that is not all; death entered into their bodies and they became mortal beings, subject to physical death. That was the beginning of decay. That day they died spiritually and began to die physically, exactly as God told them. And even a casual investigation would have shown that clear meaning and the literal fulfillment of God's warning.

"3. You find an apparent contradiction in II Kings 2:11 which says, 'And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven,' and in John 3:13 where Jesus said about Himself, 'And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.' You think that Jesus is saying that no one ever ascended to Heaven but Him. It does appear from the King James version, but the difficulty is very easily settled by one look at the Greek from which the English was translated in John 3:13. Actually, instead of saying, 'And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man ...,' Jesus said, 'And no man hath ascended up to heaven, if not he that came down from heaven.' A slight error in the translation makes the apparent difficulty. The little word 'but' is a translation of two short Greek words, *ei, me*. The first little word, *ei*, is simply *if*, and is so translated 325 times in the Bible. The little word *me* is very frequently translated *not*; is translated *lest* fifteen times; is translated *that not* eight times, etc. Jesus was simply saying in John 3:13 that no man had ever ascended up to Heaven if He Himself had not. He meant that Nicodemus must take His word for heavenly things, since He had been in Heaven and knew the truth, that Nicodemus must be born again.

"4. Your misunderstanding of Judges 1:19 seems childish. 'And the Lord was with Judah; and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.' But the 'he' refers to Judah and not to the Lord. The meaning is, Judah drove out the inhabitants of the mountain, but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron. If you had only looked in the seventeenth verse, two verses above, you would have seen

that the singular pronoun is used referring to Judah; 'and Judah went with Simeon his brother.' The Lord was with Judah, and Judah drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but Judah could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had chariots of iron. God could have done so, but God gave Judah only temporary and limited help, because of that tribe's sins. You must have wanted very badly to find something wrong with the Bible, to accept that without any investigation whatever, as a fault in the Word of God.

"5. You are puzzled, you say, by Ecclesiastes 3:19, 20 which says, 'For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.' You think that contradicts the plain statements of Daniel 12:2 which says some will be resurrected to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Again, your trouble is lack of investigation. Further study would have shown you the following: The book of Ecclesiastes clearly and repeatedly professes to speak only regarding this life, and of the things 'under the sun,' as seen through the eyes of a man. Solomon. For example, in Ecclesiastes 1:13 the writer says, 'And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all the things that are done under heaven.' Verse 14 says, 'I have seen all the works that are done under the sun.' Verse 17 says, 'And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.' All the way through the book of Ecclesiastes clearly professes to be the words of Solomon telling all he could learn about life with his unaided human understanding, and without any divine inspiration to show him about the future. Then God inspired him to write down this human record. Thus we have God's infallible record of Solomon's earthly wisdom. No other book in the Bible professes to be written in this way. But not once in the book of Ecclesiastes are we told that the matter written down was revealed from God. Not once does Solomon profess to speak about anything more than he himself had investigated and could see with human eyes or understand with human wisdom. And all of us know, of course, that to the human eye good men and bad men and beasts all alike die, and their bodies decay. Ecclesiastes 3:19 and 20 says no more than this.

6. I am glad to help you about the two genealogies of Jesus, one given in Matthew 1:1-16, and the other in Luke 3:23-38. You say the two genealogies are different. Of course they are! That in Matthew is the genealogy of Joseph, as it clearly states. Matthew 1:16 says, 'And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.' The genealogy in Luke is the genealogy of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Luke 3:23 says, 'And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli.' Notice that the words 'the son' are in italics in Luke 3:23, which means they are not in the Greek at all, but supplied by the translators. The verse should read, 'And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was of Heli.' Heli was the father of Mary; Joseph, was his son-in-law. We are not told that Heli begat Joseph, for he did not. We are not told that Joseph was the son of Heli. Actually he was his son-in-law. Among Jews the custom was to keep genealogies by fathers of course. Through Joseph, His foster father Jesus had standing as having descended from David. Actually through Mary, His real mother, He did descend from David. And it was absolutely necessary that through Mary's line, the genealogy in Luke should show the actual descent through Nathan, David's son, instead of through Solomon and the kingly line who actually reigned following David. For, concerning Coniah, the son of

## East Huntington Union Revival

(Continued from page one)

repenting of their backsliding. Most were of high school age, one an older man, one boy and one girl were about 10 or 11 years old. I think. Names and addresses were then carefully taken, on cards with full facts about each, and with church preference, and Monday these will be distributed to the pastors of the churches preferred, with others we will have by that time, and so each week. They will be visited and enlisted for Sunday school, church membership, etc. Most of them last night admitted they had not been attending church regularly, but promised to begin such attendance next Sunday morning.

It was the first extended invitation of the campaign, and these seventeen were the vanguard of a mighty group, we trust, who will be won in this campaign. Tonight we have an all-night prayer-meeting. There is deep concern.

Mr. J. Stratton Shufelt is doing a blessed work in leading the great choir, in solos and in directing the large congregation in song. His influence with young people is very fine, and I think God for a helper so devout and so talented and so earnestly capable and willing.

This campaign extends for a minimum of three weeks, with the possibility of an additional week, God willing. We most earnestly urge you to pray for us here, that many hundreds may be saved, to the glory of Christ, and to the eternal happiness of the precious souls for whom Christ died. And let us all pray for other evangelists, and that God will raise up hundreds of great union campaigns to win thousands.

## 288 Young Preachers Get 'Prayer' Book

Last spring *The Sword of The Lord* was glad to give 150 copies of the editor's large book, *PRAYER—Asking and Receiving*, to ministerial students of Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tennessee. Now we have just given 288 copies of the same book to ministerial students in Northern Baptist Seminary at Chicago. We are grateful for the opportunity, and Dr. Koller, the president assures us that they will be greatly appreciated and used by these coming young ministers.

This gift was made possible by friends who help financially in this great work of getting out the editor's writings. To them we express our heartfelt thanks and the assurance that they will share with us in the reward God gives.

This large book, 328 extra big pages, twenty-one chapters may be ordered from THE SWORD OF THE LORD PUBLISHERS, 145 North Hale St., Wheaton, Ill. The Low price is still only \$1.25. An ideal gift, order early.

Jehoiakim, king of Judah, Jeremiah 22:30 says, 'Thus saith the Lord. Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.' Thus, the coming Messiah and king of Israel had to come through another branch of David's seed. And that is exactly what happened.

'I have written you at some length, because it may be that under your foolishness you want to know the truth, or will be honest enough to investigate now that you see how ill-founded and childish are the objections of the infidels against the Bible. If you will set out with an open heart to read the Word of God and will humbly bow to God and pray for wisdom to know the truth, and seek to turn in your heart from your sins, God will give you saving faith. You will begin to understand the Bible, and you will know the sweet peace of forgiveness and salvation. I challenge you as a seeker for truth, to set out to find out about God and the Bible with a prayerful, open, scientific mind. Do you dare do it? To that end I will help you if I can.'

'In the Saviour's name, yours,  
John R. Rice.

'Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.'

— Matthew 5:14-16

Read, re-read and read yet again those great words; and any follower of Christ who fails to make it the quest of his life to bring forth his human best could well be held in suspicion. It's a holy motive, transplanted from the Garden of God into our hearts; a Godly purpose that makes us perennially determined to possess a fine body, a trained mind and a radiant spirit. My Human Best!

But the greatest pleasure in bringing forth our human best is to lay it all at the feet of Jesus! Let hands that have a micrometer touch be held out for the King to shackle as He will! Let the mind that soars in familiar visits to

poesy's loftiest summits, stand before Him and say, 'Dear Son of God, any messages you want delivered?' Let the soul that has been whitened by prayer, and cleansed by fire, cry out unto Him, 'Fairest Lord Jesus, give me a place in the heavenly train that waiteth Thy pleasure!'

The highest motivation for individual excellence is that at the present moment the man of God is the only visible manifestation of God. The world can never know Jesus save through us! 'Ye are the light of the world.' Therefore, arise, shine, for thy Light is come! Make it thy ruling passion to exhibit before men thy human best, in and for Christ, that they may glorify your Father which is in heaven!

\* \* \*

But, know also that this means dangerous living. High visibility for His sake exposes us to the enemy. 'A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid!'

— Filled with the Spirit

## BOTH CLOTH-BOUND BOOKS For Only \$1.00



### Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives And Women Preachers

If it is in the Bible, why not teach it? Well the Bible has a clear teaching that shorn hair for a woman is a shame, picturing rebellion against her father or husband, but that 'if a woman have long hair it is a glory unto her.' The Bible does clearly teach that wives are to be in subjection to their husbands, obedient to them. The Bible does clearly teach that 'I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the men, but to be in silence,' and again, 'Let your women keep silence in the church for it is not permitted unto them to speak.'

Some preachers timidly leave these teachings out. Others, to keep up with the modern world, try to explain them away. But Dr. Rice's deep convictions and his vow to preach the word of God honestly, not wresting the scriptures nor ignoring them would not allow him to do anything else but to teach what he understands the Bible to clearly say.

Cloth bound, pictured jacket, 91 pages. Has picture of Author's wife and six daughters; a picture of Mary Lloyds with her braids, and one of Elizabeth with her long hair down before the mirror.

Price only ..... **50c**

### "And God Remembered..." AND OTHER FAVORITE MESSAGES.

The first sermon, which gives the name to the book tenderly reminds us that God remembered Noah, Abraham, Rachel, Hannah and His covenant; He remembers our tears, our prayers, but He forgets all our sins when they are forgiven. *Tears in Heaven* is the second startling, scriptural sermon. How it corrects Christians! Behold the Man tells of the perfect manhood of Christ our Saviour, so He can be a perfect offering and High Priest and Example. *Where Is The Lord God of Elijah* shows how the God who answered Elijah's prayers still answers today. *The Exceeding, Abundantly Able God* encourages big faith and big prayers. *The Torn Vail* teaches how all the barriers between God and man are torn down, since Jesus was crucified and the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. This book has attractive illustrations, tan cloth binding, beautiful gold paper jacket, 123 pages. Is worth \$1.00 but sells for only ..... **50c**

THESE TWO CLOTH BOUND BOOKS, 214 PAGES OF RICH PREACHING AND BIBLE TEACHING FOR ..... **\$1.00**

5 copies, assorted, \$2.00

**SWORD OF THE LORD PUBLISHERS**  
145 N. HALE STREET WHEATON, ILLINOIS

### THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 26, 1941, at the post office at Denton, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1897.

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Published weekly at 208 South Elm Street, Denton, Texas. Editorial and Executive Office: 145 North Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

Subscription Price: \$1.00 a year, 3 years, \$2.00.  
Canada and Foreign Countries: \$1.50 a year.







# WAGES!

(Continued from page three)

the twinkling of an eye, and given glorified bodies like their Lord, without passing through death.

But death is the one event in all this world which the unbeliever may be absolutely sure of. Yet, strange as it may seem, it is the least thought of, and least prepared for by most sinners.

Oh, you may own a lot in the cemetery, carry life insurance, and have your will made out, but that is not satisfactory preparation for death so far as you are concerned. That will be poor comfort to you when the house of this life tumbles down and you are ushered into a Christless eternity unprepared to meet God.

There is a preparation for death which is sufficient and satisfactory, and you may have it, if you will. It is the preparation of the Gospel of peace, the preparation which Christ hath provided for all those who will believe in Him and His great redemptive work.

"The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin," and that alone can make us fit for the presence of God. Why go on in a life of sin, unprepared to meet God? You may be on the very edge of your grave, who knows? The next step may land you in eternity.

You may mock at religion, sport and laugh at things eternal, as though you had a lease on life for ages. But don't forget death! The cemetery may be on the outskirts of town, but it is not far enough removed for you to forget it. The hearse goes to and fro with such awful regularity that no one should be so foolish as to ignore death.

The words "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust," are fresh within the memory of some of us. And who knows, you may be the next one over which they are spoken. You may be the next one to die, and pay the wages of sin.

You may be wearing black in memory of those you have recently followed to the grave, but who knows how soon others will be wearing black in memory of you? How stuffed with thorns will be that pillow. How hard that bed on which you die. How tortured with anguish that broken heart of yours, if your only reward is the "wages of sin" which is death.

But the wages of sin is more than physical death.

## 2. The wages of sin is DEATH SPIRITUAL.

That is the separation of the soul from God's favor and fellowship. That is the state of every unregenerate, unsaved person. That is the condition of everyone who has not accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour, and been born again. Such are yet in their sins, without Christ, without God, without hope, and groping in the dark.

To be spiritually dead is to have no joy, no peace, no love of God in your heart, and no life of God in your spirit. To be dead spiritually is to be deprived of all the joy and peace and love and satisfaction, protection and comfort that there is for the one who is in fellowship and communion with God through Jesus Christ, and through the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart.

Those who are spiritually dead have minds that are blinded, understandings that are darkened, hearts that are defiled, consciences that are seared, imaginations that are evil, wills that are perverted, and affections that are corrupt. But this is not all.

## 3. The wages of sin is DEATH ETERNAL.

That is the continual and perpetual separation of the whole man, body, soul and spirit, from God's holy presence and glory throughout eternity, to be tormented in hell forever, with the devil and his angels. That is death eternal—that is the second death—the Lake of Fire and brimstone.

The wages of sin is death physical, death spiritual, death eternal. To all these kinds of death Adam subjected himself and all his children by transgressing God's law and eating the forbidden fruit.

"For as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin, so then death passed upon all men, for all have sinned." Rom. 5:12.

"For there is no difference. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23.

"The wages of sin is death."

A windswept human derelict shambled into a city soloon one evening, and asked the usual crowd of bar room loafers for a drink. It was immediately given him, and as he touched the glass to drink, the cry arose:

"Here, old man, hold on a minute. Make us a speech. It's a poor kind of a highball that won't loosen a man's tongue. And the stuff they put over here will make a fellow talk the leg off a horse."

The outcast swallowed the liquor hastily, and as it began to warm his blood, he straightened up and said:

"Boys, I thank you for the drink. It has put a spasm of life into this old worn out frame. You want a speech, do you? Well, you shall have one. But cut out the cheers."

"I look tonight with these rumbleared eyes of mine at you young fellows here, and I seem to see in one and another of you the picture of my own lost manhood. This bloated, sin-seared face of mine was once as handsome as any of yours. This shambling, halting frame once carried itself as proudly as any on God's broad earth."

"A man in the world of men, I once had a home, a good position, many friends, and an honored name. I had a wife as beautiful as a painter's dream, and as good as she was beautiful. Yet I dropped the precious pearl of her love into the wine cup. I watched it dissolve. And then as Cleopatra did for Anthony I drank it down with the swimming draught."

"I had children as sweet as lilies in the springtime, and I saw them wilt and die under the scorching blight of a drunkard's name."

"I had a home, where love had lit a flame on its sacred altars, and to which she ministered with holy hands. I put out that sacred fire, and brought darkness and desolation to reign in the place where sweetness and beauty once garlanded the scene."

"I had ambitions that soared as high as the stars of the morning, even to God's own throne. Yet I broke their beautiful pinions, and finally strangled them, that I might be tortured by their cries no more."

"All this have I had and been. But tonight I am a husband without a wife, a father without a child, a tramp without a home; one in whom every good impulse, every godward desire has been stricken dead. Everything I ever had has gone from me forever, and here I stand, a man beyond the pale."

"There boys, that's my speech. Not very pleasant listening to, but then you asked for it, and I have given it."

The derelict ceased speaking. The glass he held dropped from his nerveless fingers and shattered into a hundred pieces on the floor. The swinging doors opened and closed, and he was gone. "The wages of sin is death."

## II. THE GIFT OF GOD

This text is the finest of the wheat. It is the pure gold of the blessed Gospel. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The wages of sin is set in contrast to the gift of God. Just as surely as the laborer is worthy of his hire, so surely is the wages of sin death.

But on the other hand, eternal life is in no sense the wages of human righteousness, merit, or effort. Man has never done anything to merit eternal life, and he never can do anything to earn it.

Eternal life is ever and always the free gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Eternal life is all of grace. It is gratis. Grace is undeserved favor, unmerited mercy, uncompensated love. Eternal life is the provision of God's infinite love, matchless mercy, and marvelous grace. Eternal life can never be considered as proper pay or just dues or reward.

## 1. The gift of God is eternal life.

Eternal life is life indeed. Eternal life is overflowing life. Eternal life is the life of highest knowledge. Eternal life is perfect life. Eternal life is satisfying life. Eternal life is divine life. Eternal life is without end.

Eternal life is the life of God Himself. "In Him was life and the life was the light of men." John

1:4. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature." 2 Peter 1:4.

Eternal life is the life of the Christian, the child of God, the one that is born again. Eternal life is the life of those who are in Christ. "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature." 2 Corinthians 5:17. "And this is the record that God has given unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." 1 John 5:11.

I don't fully understand it, nor can I explain it, but I believe it, for I find it in God's Word. When anyone bows the knee to Jesus Christ and accepts Him as Saviour and Lord, that one is born again of the Holy Spirit, and becomes a partaker of the divine nature, and a possessor of life eternal.

## 2. Eternal life is just the opposite from eternal death.

You will recall that we said physical death is separation of the soul from the body. Well, physical life is just the opposite. It is the union of the soul with the body.

And we noted that spiritual death was the separation of man from God; whereas spiritual life is the union of man with God. And eternal death is the separation of the whole man—body, soul and spirit—from God eternally; whereas eternal life is the union of the whole man—body, soul, and spirit—with God eternally.

## 3. But eternal life is not something wholly future.

Eternal life begins here and now, the moment we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour. "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:12.

Jesus said "He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24. It is the present tense—"hath." Not "may have" or "shall have," but "HATH."

It makes very little difference whether you have anything else or not. If you have Jesus Christ you have eternal life, and if you do not have Jesus Christ you do not have eternal life.

## 4. Although eternal life is the life of heaven, it is to be enjoyed here and now.

There are homes in this world in the strictest of poverty, with scarcely enough to furnish the house, where heaven has already begun. The folks in those homes enjoy eternal life because they have Christ as the Head of the home, and the Host at every meal. In those homes God's Word is read, prayer is offered, thanks is returned at the meals, and the children are trained in the knowledge of the Lord.

On the other hand, there are homes of princely wealth, brown stone fronts, marble steps, hardwood floors, oriental rugs, mahogany furniture, expensive paintings, all modern conveniences and equipment, but there is nothing heavenly about them, because God is not recognized there, God's Word is ignored, the Lord Jesus Christ is not acknowledged, received, known, and welcomed.

There is nothing of the love, joy, and peace of the Holy Ghost. There is no real life there. No eternal life—no divine life. Nothing Christian. Too often such homes are more like Hell than Heaven. There is confusion, strife, selfishness, hatred, over-indulgence, and downright devilishness. But where Jesus is, there heaven has already begun, and eternal life is enjoyed.

## 5. Eternal life will not issue in the same results for all.

It is not a sea of bliss on which each of us sail in equal content. Some will be saved so as by fire, and will get into the kingdom of God by the skin of their teeth, which others will have an abundant entrance into God's kingdom.

Every man shall be rewarded according to his works. The penitent thief's reward will not be the same as Paul's. But according to our service in this life, shall be our rewards eternally.

However, THERE ARE SOME RESPECTS IN WHICH ETERNAL LIFE IS THE SAME TO ALL. Those who possess eternal life are eternally saved from sin. Salvation means deliverance, safe-

ty, preservation, healing, and soundness.

## All who have eternal life are saved from sin.

They are delivered from the guilt and penalty of sin. They are being delivered from the power and dominion of sin. They shall be delivered from the pollution and presence of sin.

Regardless of how sinful and wicked they may have been, one and all, harlots and murderers, criminals, thieves, drunkards, gamblers, or moral men and women, who accept the gift of God, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, are washed from all their sins in the blood of the Lamb, and are delivered from the guilt, penalty, power, pollution, and finally from the presence of sin for eternity.

## All who have eternal life shall be saved from the awful effects of sin.

Sickness, suffering, pain, sorrow, anxiety, grief, and all the results of the curse. In the closing chapters of God's great Revelation we read of the eternal state.

Here in the book of Romans we read of God's MUCH MORE's. "MUCH MORE then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Rom. 5:9.

"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, MUCH MORE being reconciled we shall be saved by his life." v. 10.

"For if through the offense of one many be dead, MUCH MORE the grace of God and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." v. 15.

"For if by one man's offense death reigned by one, MUCH MORE they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by one Jesus Christ." v. 17.

"Moreover, the law entered that the offense might abound, but where sin abounded grace did MUCH MORE abound." v. 20.

## But in the Book of Revelation we are told of the NO MORE's.

No more SEA, no more DEATH, no more SORROW, no more CRYING, no more PAIN, no more TEMPLE, no more SUN, no more MOON, no more NIGHT, no more ABOMINATIONS, no more SIN, no more SICKNESS, no more SUFFERING, no more SATAN, no more VICE, no more CRIME, no more DEFILEMENT, no more PESTILENCE, no more FAMINE, no more EARTHQUAKE, no more DESTRUCTION, no more WAR.

The strategies of Satan will be ended. The struggle of the ages will be over. The conflict with evil will be consummated. The tragedy of sin will give place to the triumph of grace.

We shall turn from the record of ruin to the results of redemption. We shall gaze upon the new heavens and the new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. The trail of the serpent shall never mar that new creation.

"Change and decay in all around I see," for we live in the midst of things temporal. But in that day it will all be different. Things temporal shall give place to things eternal. And we shall dwell forever in the kingdom of our God and Father, which shall never pass away.

## All who have eternal life shall be saved from the awful end of sin.

Death, judgment, and hell. "The wages of sin is death,"—physical, spiritual, and eternal.

"But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Death hath no dominion over the man who has eternal life in Christ Jesus. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25, 26.

## Eternal life summed up.

God is the author; Christ is the channel; the Holy Spirit is the power; faith is the receiver; holiness is the fruit; eternity is the duration; and Christ is the embodiment.

## III. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Eternal life is a gift. It is the

gift of God. It is bestowed on the merits of another. We cannot buy it or earn it; it is God's free gift to those who believe and receive His Son. It is not through a creed, a ceremony, a church, or a curate. It is "through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

"Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:5-7.

"Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe,  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow."

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim.  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb.

And when before the Throne,  
I stand in Him complete,  
'Jesus died my soul to save'  
My lips shall still repeat."

You may have heard the story of the conversion of Chiniquy, a French-Canadian Roman Catholic priest, in charge of a Roman Catholic Church in St. Anne, Illinois. He read the New Testament, and came out of the blackness of despair, of penance and purgatory, into the glorious light of full and free salvation in Jesus Christ, and the hope of heaven without going through the fire.

He was reading his New Testament one Saturday night while on his knees. There came to his attention this Scripture: "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." He arose from his knees, saying to himself: "Accept the gift, and love the Giver," and penance, purgatory, priestly absolution, prayers, to Mary and the saints, vanished like the darkness before the rising sun.

He spent all that Saturday night in prayer and praise, repeating as he walked the floor of his room: "I accept the gift, and I love the Giver." The next morning he announced to his assembled congregation that he had renounced the priesthood. He had founded that church and had been a priest there for about twenty-five years.

His people rose in different parts of the church, and said: "Father, what is the matter?"

He answered: "I have accepted Jesus Christ as the gift of God for eternal life, and hereafter I shall not administer absolution. I shall not prescribe penance. I shall preach that there is no purgatory to be feared, and I will ask everybody to come straight to the Lord Jesus without my having to intervene."

"Now," he continued, "I cannot remain in my present position, holding those views. Last night on my knees, I accepted Jesus Christ as my all-sufficient Saviour."

Then the thought came to him—why cannot God do for my dear people what He has done for me? And in response to their request, he preached for an hour and three-quarters, and they all forgot about the clock. At the close of his sermon, he said: "All in this house who will stand with me in accepting Jesus Christ as an all-sufficient Saviour without penance, purgatory, priestly absolutions, and without the intercession of Mary and the saints rise to your feet."

And 1,000 of them stood up. And that church became a Presbyterian church. Not more than thirty families in that whole congregation clung to Rome. Chiniquy and his faithful followers were saved, sanctified, and set free. They were delivered from the guilt, and penalty, and dominion of sin. They came into possession of eternal life as a free gift through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And so may you. For God is no respecter of persons, but to as many as receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, to them He gives the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Romans 6:23.

Accept the GIFT and love the GIVER.